

greater population, there is an additional process. In these areas, the Transportation Advisory Committee compiles the list of transportation priorities every year. This list is then advertised for public review and comment. The Transportation Advisory Committee discusses the public input and consequently adopts a formal transportation priorities list to be presented at the Board of Transportation Public Hearing for the entire urban area.

For transportation projects anticipated to be implemented with local funds, the project will need to be programmed into the Capital Improvements Program (CIP). If there is not a CIP, then the project needs to be addressed by the governing body (City/Town Council or County Commission).

Once a project actually gets programmed into the TIP, an environmental analysis is performed. This would involve studying two or more alternatives with regard to wetlands, air quality, noise, archeology, historic structures, threatened and endangered species, water quality, socioeconomic factors, neighborhood cohesion, hazardous waste, and wildlife habitat. The degree of impact on these factors is then detailed in an environmental document.

After the environmental study, a preferred alternative is selected and a final environmental document produced. Then a preliminary design is completed for the selected alternative. During the course of project development, one or more public hearings will be held to obtain public input on the alternative selected and the design of the project. Once issues raised by other governmental agencies and the public have been addressed, the final design is completed. The project then goes on to right-of-way acquisition, contract letting, construction, and finally open to the public.